



STATE OF ARIZONA

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GOVERNOR

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March 11, 2008

The Honorable Jim Weiers
Speaker of the House
Arizona House of Representatives
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: House Bill 2857; FY 07-08 Budget Adjustments

Dear Speaker Weiers:

I am forwarding with my veto House Bill 2857, pertaining to a legislative freeze on state government's access to and use of certain fiscal year 2007-2008 appropriations.

Last September, I released a comprehensive budget management plan that addressed the state's budget shortfalls and balanced the 2008 budget. Since then, I have regularly updated and adjusted my management plan and shared those plans with the legislature. Now we are over seven weeks into the legislative session and House Bill 2857 is the only bill you have delivered to me related to Arizona's now estimated \$1.2 billion budget deficit. This bill, which lacks bipartisan support and addresses less than half of the budget shortfall amount, is wholly inadequate.

We cannot congratulate ourselves and think we have made progress by piecemeal attempts like House Bill 2857. We fool no one. Arizonans deserve a comprehensive fiscal plan that resolves the expected budget deficits of fiscal year 2008 and 2009.

I call on the legislature to work with me on a comprehensive, bipartisan plan that provides for Arizona's future, taking into account our current realities. I continue to make myself available to meet with you so we may produce a reasonable fiscal plan for Arizona together.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet Napolitano", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Janet Napolitano
Governor

JN:LK/jm

cc: The Honorable Timothy S. Bee
The Honorable Tom Boone